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'CIA Recruiting Here (If You Can Find Its Office)

A female voice at the other end of the line answers the telephone: "Mr. Forrester's office."

She doesn't say that Mr. Forrester's office is a recruiting station for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Her first words on the telephone reinforce the information in the Ann Arbor telephone directory. The information in the directory lists "Forrester, John F., ofc. 450 S. Main, NO 3-7866."

The information is listed among the F's for Forrester, not the U's for U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA in Washington confirmed today that it operates a full-time office in Ann Arbor to recruit students for CIA jobs. Forrester supervises the office.

The local office is one of 17 regional recruiting stations, and serves Michigan and Ohio. Other Midwest recruiters are stationed at Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City, according to Rex Grieves, CIA director of personnel.

The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and other Big Ten schools are productive institutions for CIA recruiters, Grieves reported.

He said the CIA is looking for students in various fields for its career training program in intelligence.

Students who have studied international political science and who are proficient in a foreign language are in greatest demand, he said, but added: "As an agency we don't discourage anyone."

Forrester said his office in Ann Arbor is involved in "strictly recruitment. Our greatest need at the moment happens to be photogrammetrists. I would appreciate it if you would mention we need photogrammetrists if you give us any publicity," he told The News.

Photogrammetry is the process of making surveys and maps utilizing photographs.

The Ann Arbor office figured in a news story by Washington reporter Ernest A. Ostro, who said he recently replied to a help wanted ad in a newspaper trade magazine and found himself talking with a CIA recruiter.

Ostro said the initial CIA contact was by letter postmarked from Ann Arbor. He said he rejected a possible overseas "spy" assignment because it would have meant leaving his wife in the U. S. for two years.

CIA officials in Washington had no comment on Ostro's story, but they were willing to talk about CIA recruiting operations.

Forrester said that he had no knowledge of Ostro's story, "except for what Washington is giving you."

"We have wonderful relations with the University of Michigan and Michigan State University," said Grieves. "They do a good job of screening students in advance."

Forrester said he "couldn't give out any specific figures" on how successful his office has been in recruiting U-M students for the CIA.

"I can say we do extremely well in the Midwest," the local recruiting supervisor said.

The Ann Arbor office has had little publicity, Grieves said, but there is no reason it should not be publicized "except we can't service a walk-in public."

He said campus recruiting is done between October and March. Recruiting is halted in March so that security checks can be completed and job offers made in May.

While the CIA enjoys good relations with Big Ten schools, Grieves said, the agency cannot be as cooperative as the institutions might desire.

For example, the CIA can't tell university placement bureaus which candidates were given employment because some students joining CIA may be headed for a career of anonymity.

The Ann Arbor office was opened about six years ago. Its office hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Forrester was asked why the local recruiting office was listed in the telephone directory under his name instead of the CIA.

"Well, I guess it has always been listed that way," he said.